

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REACTION PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON CENTERED ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT FEB. 18 THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS DECLARED A MORATORIUM ON THE GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT. THE CANADIAN PRESS REPORTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER DON JAMIESON "WHO FACED STRONG OPPOSITION CRITICISM IN THE COMMONS EARLIER YESTERDAY OVER THE GARRISON PROJECT EXPRESSED PLEASURE IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT." THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THE STATEMENT RENDERS THE GARRISON ISSUE DORMANT AS FAR AS THE PRIME MINISTER'S TWO-DAY TRIP TO WASHINGTON IS CONCERNED.

2. THE GARRISON DIVERSION ANNOUNCEMENT WAS THE LEAD ITEM ON THE CBC MONRING NEWS ON SATURDAY FEB. 19. CBC CARRIED A STRAIGHTFORWARD ACCOUNT OF THE WASHINGTON ANNOUNCEMENT AND POINTED OUT THAT IT REMOVES A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE WHICH PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU WAS PLANNING TO RAISE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN THEIR MEETING FEBRUARY 21ST. THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL HEADLINED "US AGGREGES TO HALT WORK ON GARRISON DAM" AND REPORTED THAT THE MOVE COMPLIED WITH AN OCTOER 12 UNCLASSIFIED

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CANADIAN REQUEST THAT CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT'S LONETREE RESERVOIR DAM BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE TWO GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER THE PROJECT'S HARMFUL EFFECTS ON MANITOBA WATERS. THE GLOBE AND MAIL'S CP WIRE SERVICE STORY REPORTED THAT "THE US NOTE AGREEING TO THE CANADIAN REQUEST WAS DELIVERED SHORTLY AFTER THE HOUSE OF COMMONS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY YESTERDAY TO ENDORSES

PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU'S PLAN TO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER WHEN THE TWO LEADERS MEET MONDAY." THE GLOBE AND MAIL WENT ON TO REPORT THAT "ALTHOUGH THE DECISION WILL VIRTUALLY ENSURE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN MR. TRUDEAU AND MMR. CARTER WHEN THEY MEET NEXT WEEK, IT IS CERTAIN TO TOUCH OFF AN UPROAR AMONG MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO HAVE BEEN BACKING THE PROJECT." QUOTING A CONGRESSIONAL SOURCE CLOSE TO THE ISSUE THE GLOBE AND MAIL SAID "THE SOURCE PREDICTED THAT DESPITE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S STRATEGY OF MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS THE DECISION WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED MEEKLY. THEY'RE REALLY KIND OF STICKING THEIR NECKS OUT THE SOURCE SAID. THEY'RE SANDBAGGING THEMSELVES."

3. PAUL WHITELAW WRITING IN THE OTTAWA JOURNAL REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A KING-SIZED WELCOME ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE WHITE HOUSE WHEN HE ARRIVES FOR TALKS ON MONDAY WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. WHITELAW REPORTED THAT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY HAS ASKED FOR 400 TICKETS TO THE WHITE HOUSE ARRIVAL "100 MORE THAN THE BRITISH EMBASSY REQUESTED FOR THE ARRIVAL OF QUEEN ELIZABETH LAST SUMMER." THE SUBSTANCE OF TALKS WILL BE WEIGHTY, THE JOURNAL REPORTS, "AT LEAST JUDGING BY A CANADIAN BRIEFING BOOK DISTRUBTED TO REPORTERS COVERING THE TWO AND A HALF DAY VISIT." DUEMLING

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